(d) whether it is a fact that the proposals are kept pending for unduly long time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that as prescribed in the relevant guidelines, Doordarshan charges an amount of Rs. 25,000/- as processing fee for each proposal of commissioned programmes at the headquarters and Rs. 10,000/- for each proposal at Regional Kendras including North-Eastern and Jammu and Kashmir Kendras. No specific time-frame has been prescribed for approval of the programmes.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that approximately 1790 proposals for commissioning are pending in Directorate General of Doordarshan and these are at different stages of processing.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Textile and Agricultural markets in European Union

*355. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Trade Organisation, the European Union has failed to make significant progress in opening its textile and agricultural markets to competitions from overseas;

(b) if so, whether the periodical analysis of EU trade policy by WTO reinforces India's contention that the EU places significant barriers in access to its markets;

(c) whether India's textile and agriculture markets are greatly affected due to this EU decision; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) During the Trade Policy Review of the European Union (EU) held in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 24th and 26th July, 2002, members of the WTO, including India, underlined the adverse impact of EU's Common Agricultural Policy and trade distorting agricultural subsidies on their exports of agricultural products. India also expressed concern that to date the EU had lifted restrictions on only 20% of textiles products restricted in 1990, leaving the elimination of the remaining 80% of restricted imports "back-loaded" for the final stage at the end of 2004, an approach that went against the spirit of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. Concern was also expressed on the use of anti-dumping and countervailing duty action by the EU.

The WTO Secretariat Report for the Trade Policy Review of the European Union has observed that the simple average tariff on agricultural products is 16% which is about 4 times higher than that on non-agricultural products. Evidence of tariff escalation remains, in particular on processed products. For textiles, the Report has observed that tariffs well above the average apply to textiles and clothing products. The report has also noted that the EU has long maintained restrictions on imports of textile and clothing products from a number of developing countries and transition economies.

(d) India has been taking up the issue of barriers in access to EU markets in respect of textiles and agricultural products bilaterally with EU and with its member States, as well as at the WTO. The Government have also raised these issues at appropriate multilateral fora including during the ongoing negotiations at the WTO on market access for agricultural and non-agricultural products and in the Negotiating Group on Rules which is considering improvements and clarifications on the Anti-Dumping Agreement and the Subsidies Agreement. These negotiations are scheduled to be completed by January, 2005.

Applications pending before Income-tax Appellate Tribunals

*356. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of applications/petitions